

\$92 million increase in their education program, that particular program going to fund faculty salaries. The recruiters from Iowa schools are saying very simply they are coming across the river and they are going to take our best teachers. They can afford to do that. They have the money to pay them. We don't. We are trying to restore state aid to education. We are not attempting to increase it. There is really in the state aid appropriation there is no new money going in. This merely restores us to where we were four years ago. I think this is a good amendment. I think the time is now if we're going to make this commitment. I would like to relinquish some additional closing time to Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely. Don't try it again, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Hannibal wanted me to call the question but it's been tried. I just want to finish up by saying I know this is a hard vote. And I have talked to many of you. There is a reluctance and understandably because of the difficulty in this vote. Let me tell you what will happen if you vote yes, and I think many of you will. This will send the message we need to send, that we care about education, that we know we have a problem and you know there is a problem in education and in higher education and in the secondary schools and elementary schools. If we can vote for this amendment and if we can possibly get it adopted, it seems to me the next step is to sit down and talk about the funding levels, how it fits into the rest of the budget. And I think you will see us working with Senator Warner, members of the Appropriations Committee, about the funding mechanism and the follow-up that we need to do with the bill. But the first step that has to be taken is a positive sign of support for education in this state. So please, please vote for this amendment and understand that this is the beginning of a process to discuss how we enhance and improve our educational system in this state for all Nebraskans both today and in the future.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption...call of the house has been requested. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The house is under call. Members, please check in. Those outside the Chamber, please return to the